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CATECHISM

OF THE

ETHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

No. 1.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION,

200 MULBERRY-STREET, NEW-YORK.

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CATECHISM

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METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

No. 1.

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PREFACE.

THE characteristics of this Catechism are, brevity, comprehensiveness, and systematic arrangement. It is not published as a child's Catechism merely, but as the CATECHISM OF THE CHURCH, including both young and old. The answers are generally short, and the words easy; but short words have not been chosen in preference to longer ones deemed more appropriate.

While the language is studiously adapted to the comprehension of children, it is suitable to be retained in memory through life. Hence it is not proposed in other numbers of the series to change the language of the present. This is called Catechism No. 1, only for the sake of distinction. It is *the* Catechism. No. 2 is the same, with the addition of numerous Scripture proofs and illustrations printed side by side with the several questions and answers. No. 3 also repeats the Catechism in small type for reference, but it is designed for a series of instructions of a much higher grade.

These several Catechisms should be used in consecutive order. In the first, the task of the scholar is to learn by heart the answers to the several questions so as to repeat them verbatim, either in numerical order, or when asked at random. This having been done, the next step of the scholar will be to commit to memory the Scripture proofs of the several answers as furnished in No. 2. The instructions of No. 3 will then be in place.

The Scripture references appended to the answers of the Catechism are merely illustrative, except when preceded by quotation-marks, which indicate that the text is literally copied. It will not be necessary for pupils to pay attention to them, unless their curiosity is excited to examine the fountains of religious truth.

Continued perseverance is essential to success in catechetical instruction. It is therefore earnestly recommended to parents, teachers, and ministers to review their pupils in the Catechism with frequency and regularity.

In every Sunday school there should be at least a monthly recitation of the whole Catechism, whatever other studies may be pursued.

When a school is properly prepared in advance, this recitation need not occupy more than fifteen minutes at a time. A variety of exercises

may be adopted in order to render the recitation of the Catechism interesting, e. g.:—

1. *Recitation in concert;* in which the superintendent will ask the questions, and all the scholars respond in one voice.

2. *Recitation by classes.*—This may be practiced by asking the questions alternately of the classes in rotation, all the members of each class responding in concert; or by alternating the questions between the male and female classes; or, finally, by examining one or more of the male classes on a whole section, and then a corresponding number of female classes on the following section, and so on until the whole recitation is completed.

3. *Individual recitation.*—In order to have this style of recitation pass off with spirit, let none be allowed to participate in it who have not in their classes shown themselves perfectly familiar with every question and answer in the Catechism. Let those who are thus familiar be arranged in a row, either sitting or standing, and let the questions be rapidly but plainly asked of the several scholars in rotation, until the lesson is finished.

Whatever plan may be adopted for the recitation of the Catechism, parents, teachers, and ministers should cherish a common solicitude to have

every scholar thoroughly taught in all the questions and answers.

From such a beginning it will be easy to progress with the Scripture proofs of the second series, and also with the enlarged instructions of the third.

The teaching and frequent recitation of the *baptismal covenant* found in the Appendix is particularly recommended. The recitation ought to be accompanied with suitable instructions on the nature and obligations of Christian baptism. The Lord's prayer and the ten commandments are repeated in the Appendix for the convenience of separate study and recitation. Such portions of Scripture, including the beatitudes, ought to be kept constantly familiar to every mind.

The importance of teaching the young some forms of prayer to aid and guide their devotions, is obvious. The examples given in the Appendix are progressive in their style and length. Parents and teachers will use their discretion as to which should be recommended at any particular age.

Of the sweet and simple prayer at the end, it may be sufficient to say that some of the wisest and best of men have accustomed themselves to repeat it nightly, from early childhood to the very end of their earthly pilgrimage.

OFFICIAL APPROVAL.

THE undersigned, appointed by the Book Committee to examine the Catechism to be revised, according to the vote of the last General Conference, by the Editor of Sunday-school books, hereby report that we have, to the best of our ability, performed the duty assigned us. The manuscript submitted by the Editor of Sunday-school books was carefully considered, and, after mature reflection, we do not hesitate to approve of it, and recommend it for general use in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

E. HEDDING, N. BANGS, S. OLIN, J. HOLDICH.

NEW-YORK, *April* 18*th*, 1851.

ACTION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

THIS Catechism, and also Catechism No. 2, and specimens of No. 3, having been submitted for examination to the General Conference held in Boston, May, 1852, the same were referred to a select committee, composed of Revs. Elias Bowen, George Webber, and John H. Power.

After a careful examination, the committee reported in favor of the plan and execution of the Catechisms submitted; whereupon the Conference unanimously adopted the report of the committee, and ordered the immediate publication of Nos. 1 and 2, and the completion and issue of No. 3 on the plan proposed.

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CATECHISM.

I. GOD.

§ 1.—His Nature and Attributes.

1. *Who made you?*

God.

2. *Who is God?*

The Creator of all things.

3. *What is God?*

An uncreated Spirit.

4. *Where is God?*

God is everywhere.

5. *What does God know?*

God is all-wise; he knoweth all things, even the thoughts of our hearts.—1 John iii, 20.

6. *What can God do?*

God is almighty; he doeth whatsoever he will.

7. *How long has God existed?*

God is eternal; he has lived always, and will live forever.

8. *What is the character of God?*

"God is love."—1 John iv, 8.

9. *Is God holy?*

God is holy; he hateth all workers of iniquity.—Psa. v, 5.

10. *Is God merciful?*

"The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy." [Psa. ciii, 8.

11. *Is God just?*

The Lord is just, rewarding the righteous and punishing the wicked.

12. *Is God true?*

He is "the God of truth."—Isa. lxv, 16.
He "cannot lie."—Titus i, 2.

§ 2.—The Persons of God.

13. *Are there more Gods than one?*

"There is none other God but one." [1 Cor. viii, 4.

14. *Are there more persons in the Godhead than one?*

There are three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and these three are ONE.—1 John v, 7.

15. *Is the Father God?*

"To us there is but one God, the Father."—1 Cor. viii, 6.

16. *Is the Son God?*

Christ "is over all, God blessed forever." He is the true God.—Rom. ix, 5; 1 John v, 20.

17. *Is the Holy Ghost God?*

The Holy Ghost is "the eternal Spirit." [Heb. ix, 14.

18. *In what name are Christians baptized?*

In the name of the Holy Trinity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. [Matt. xxviii, 19.

II. OF CREATION.

§ 1.—The World.

19. *Can you repeat the first verse of the Bible?*

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."—Gen. i, 1.

20. *Does God preserve all things which he has made?*

He upholdeth all things by the word of his power.—Heb. i, 3.

§ 2.—Man.

21. *Of what did God make man's body?*

"Of the dust of the ground."—Gen. ii, 7.

22. *How did God make man's soul?*

God "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul."— [Gen. ii, 7.

23. *How do the soul and body differ?*

The body is material and mortal, the soul is spiritual and immortal.

24. *Was man created good?*

He was; God created man in his own image.—Gen. i, 27.

25. *In what did this image of God consist?*

"In righteousness and true holiness."—[Eph. iv, 24.

26. *What authority was given to man at the creation?*

God gave him dominion over every living thing.—Gen. i, 28.

27. *Where did God place our first parents?*

In the garden of Eden.—Gen. ii, 8.

28. *What law was given them?*

The law of perfect obedience.—Gen. ii, 16, 17.

III. MAN'S FALL AND SINFUL STATE.

§ 1.—Sin.

29. *Did our first parents continue holy and happy?*

They sinned against God, and fell into misery.—Gen. iii.

30. *What is sin?*

Any transgression of the law of God.—[1 John iii, 4.

31. *What was the sin of our first parents?*

Their eating of the forbidden fruit.

32. *By whom were they tempted to sin?*

By the devil, in the form of a serpent.—[Gen. iii, 13; Rev. xx, 2.

§ 2.—Guilt, Prevalence, and Consequences of Sin.

33. *What evil did their sin bring upon them?*

They lost the image of God, were driven out of Eden, and became subject to pain and death.

34. *Did their sin harm any beside themselves?*

"By the offense of one, judgment came upon all men to condemnation."—Rom. v, 18.

35. *In what state are mankind born?*

In the image of fallen Adam, destitute of original righteousness.—Gen. v, 3.

36. *What are the miseries of this condition?*

All mankind being born in sin, are by nature under the wrath of God.

IV. SALVATION.

§ 1.—The Source and Grounds of Salvation, viz.: The Love of God in Christ and Redemption through Christ.

37. *Did God leave mankind in sin and misery?*

No; "God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that who-

soever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."—John iii, 16.

38. *What did the Son of God do to save sinners?*

He became man, lived, suffered, died, and rose again.

39. *How did he become man?*

Christ, though God, took upon him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of man, having a human body and soul.

40. *What example does Christ's life afford us?*

An example of perfect goodness and holiness.

41. *What did Christ suffer for us?*

"He humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."—Phil. ii, 8.

42. *Why did Christ thus suffer and die?*

To offer to divine justice full atonement for the sins of the world.

43. *How are we benefited by Christ's resurrection?*

He rose for our justification, and ascended to the right hand of God, where he ever liveth to make intercession for us.—Rom. iv, 25; Eph. i, 20; Col. iii, 1; Heb. vii, 25.

44. *Did Christ make this atonement for all mankind?*

By the grace of God he tasted death for every man.—Heb. ii, 9.

§ 2.—Conditions of Salvation.

45. *Will all men therefore be saved?*

No; "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."—Psa. ix, 17.

46. *Will those be saved who die in childhood before they know good and evil?*

They will; for Jesus said, "Of such is the kingdom of heaven."—Matt. xix, 14.

47. *On what terms are those saved who know good from evil?*

On condition of "repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." [Acts xx, 21.

48. *What is repentance?*

A godly sorrow on account of sin.—[2 Cor. vii, 10.

49. *How is true repentance indicated?*

By the forsaking of sin and a sincere turning to God.

50. *What is faith in Jesus Christ?*

Faith in Jesus Christ is the act of receiving and trusting in him alone, for salvation.—John i, 12; Phil. iii, 9.

51. *Can we repent and believe of ourselves?*

No; the power to repent and believe is given us of God.—Eph. ii, 8; Rom. xi, 29.

52. *How can we know when we believe in Jesus Christ?*

"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself."—1 John v, 10.

53. *What witness is this?*

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God."—Rom. viii, 16.

§ 3.—The Fruits and Extent of Salvation.

54. *What fruits doth this faith produce?*

Justification, regeneration, sanctification.
[Rom. v, 1; John i, 12, 13; Gal. ii, 16; 2 Thess. ii, 13.

55. *What is justification?*

Justification is that act of God's free grace in which he pardons our sins and accepts us as righteous in his sight for the sake of Christ.—Eph. i, 7; 2 Cor. v, 21; Rom. iii, 24; v, 19.

56. *What is regeneration?*

It is the new birth of the soul in the image of Christ, whereby we become the children of God.—Eph. i, 5; John i, 12, 13; John iii, 3; Eph. iv, 24; 1 John iii, 2.

57. *What is sanctification?*

Sanctification is that act of divine grace whereby we are made holy.—1 Thess. v, 23; Eph. i, 4; Col i, 22; Heb. xiii, 12

58. *May every believer be wholly sanctified in this life?*

Yes; God's command is, "Be ye holy, for I am holy;" and his promise is, that "if we confess our sins" he will "cleanse us from all unrighteousness."—[1 Peter i, 16; 1 Thess. iv, 3; 1 John i, 9.

59. *What is implied in being a perfect Christian, or in being wholly sanctified?*

Loving God with all our heart and soul, mind and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves.

60. *Is it possible for a justified or a sanctified Christian to fall from grace and perish?*

It is; for even the apostle Paul feared lest, after having preached to others, he himself should be a castaway.—1 Cor. ix, 27.

61. *How shall we guard against the danger of falling from grace?*

By watchfulness, prayer, and a life of faith in the Son of God.

V. THE MEANS OF GRACE.

§ 1.—The Church and Ministry.

62. *What are the principal means of grace?*

The Church, the sacraments, the word of God, and prayer.

63. *In what two forms does the Church of God exist?*

The visible and the invisible.

64. *What is the visible Church?*

The visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men, in which the pure word of God is preached and the sacraments duly administered according to Christ's ordinance.—Acts ii, 42; Matt. xvi, 18; Eph. v, 27.

65. *What is the invisible Church?*

The whole body of God's true people in every period of time.

66. *Ought not all persons where the gospel is preached, to become believers in Christ and members of the Church?*

They ought; in order to have a visible union with Christ, the Head of the Church, and communion with his people.—Eph. v, 23; John xvii, 21; 1 Cor. xii, 20.

67. *Who are to preach the word of God and administer the sacraments?*

Faithful men, called of God and set apart by the Church to the office and work of the ministry.—Heb. v, 4; Acts xiii, 2, 3; 1 Tim. iv, 14.

§ 2.—The Sacraments.

68. *How many sacraments has Christ ordained in his Church?*

Two; baptism and the Lord's supper.—[Matt. xxviii, 19; 1 Cor. xi, 23–28.

69. *What is a sacrament?*

An outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace.

(1.) BAPTISM.

70. *What is the outward sign in baptism?*

Water, applied in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.—[John iii, 5; Matt. xxviii, 19.

71. *What is the inward grace signified in baptism?*

A death unto sin and a new birth unto righteousness.

72. *What advantages are secured to baptized persons?*

They are admitted to the visible Church of Christ; their relation to him as the Mediator of the new covenant, and their title to the spiritual blessings thereto belonging, are solemnly confirmed.

(2.) THE LORD'S SUPPER.

73. *Why was the sacrament of the Lord's supper ordained?*

For the continual remembrance of the sacrifice of Christ's death, and of the benefits that we thereby receive.—1 Cor. xi, 23-26.

74. *What is the outward sign of the Lord's supper?*

Bread and wine, received according to Christ's command.

75. *What is the inward grace of this sacrament?*

The communion of the body and blood of Christ, whereby we are reminded of his sacrificial death, and spiritually strengthened to do HIS will.

§ 3.—The Word of God and Prayer.

76. *Whence do we derive all correct knowledge of religious truth and duty?*

From the Holy Bible.

77. *What is the Bible?*

It is the revelation of divine truth, and the record of God's will.

78. *What is the only sufficient rule of a Christian's faith and practice?*

The word of God, as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

79. *How should we use the Scriptures?*

We should seriously and diligently study God's holy word with prayer, that we may understand, believe, and practice the same.—John v, 39.

80. *What is prayer?*

Prayer is the offering up of our desires unto God in the name of Christ.

81. *With what should prayer be always accompanied?*

With humble confession of sin, with

hearty thanksgiving for God's mercies, and sincere faith in his promises.

82. *Where should we offer up our prayers?*

Publicly in the house of God, and privately in our families and in our closets.

83. *What special example of prayer is given us in Scripture?*

The Lord's prayer.

84. *Can you repeat the Lord's prayer?*

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread: and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

VI. GOD'S LAW.

Duties to God and Man.

85. *What does God require of man?*

Obedience to his revealed will.

86. *What is the rule of our obedience?*

The moral law.

87. *Where is the moral law given?*

In the ten commandments.—Exod. xx.

88. *What is the first commandment?*

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

89. *What is the second commandment?*

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

90. *What is the third commandment?*

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

91. *What is the fourth commandment?*

Remember the Sabbath-day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and

do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath-day, and hallowed it.

92. *What is the fifth commandment?*

Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

93. *What is the sixth commandment?*

Thou shalt not kill.

94. *What is the seventh commandment?*

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

95. *What is the eighth commandment?*

Thou shalt not steal.

96. *What is the ninth commandment?*

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

97. *What is the tenth commandment?*

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's

house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

98. *What is our Saviour's summary of God's commandments?*

He said: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."—Matt. xxii, 37–40.

99. *How does our Saviour explain the commandments?*

He teaches that they not only forbid sin in act, but in thought.—Matt. v, 21, 22, 27, 28.

100. *What is our Lord's precept, commonly called the golden rule?*

"Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them."—[Matt. vii, 12.

101. *Can any man be saved by keeping the law?*

No; "By the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified."—Rom. iii, 20.

102. *What then is the use of the law?*

It serves to show men their need of

Christ; "For by the law is the knowledge of sin."—Rom. iii, 20; Gal. iii, 19.

103. *Are all Christians under obligation to keep the law?*

Yes; they are "not without law to God, but under the law to Christ."—[1 Cor. ix, 21.

VII. OF DEATH, JUDGMENT, AND ETERNITY.

104. *Do we remain long in this world?*

No; life is short and uncertain, and we all must die.—Job xiv, 10.

105. *Is it not a fearful thing to die?*

It is to all but true Christians.

106. *Why should not true Christians fear to die?*

Because the sting of death is removed, and they know that they shall go to heaven.

107. *How long will the bodies of men lie in the grave?*

Until the last day, when Christ shall come to raise the dead for judgment.

108. *Will all the dead be raised?*

"There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust."—[Acts xxiv, 15; John v, 28, 29.

109. *Will all men be judged at the last day?*

"We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that *every one* may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."—2 Cor. v, 10.

110. *What sentence will Christ pronounce on the wicked?*

"Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."—Matt. xxv, 41.

111. *What will he say to the righteous?*

"Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."—Matt. xxv, 34.

112. *What will then take place?*

The world shall be destroyed by fire; and the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal.—Matt. xxv, 46; 2 Pet. iii, 10.

APPENDIX.

I. THE BEATITUDES.

BLESSED are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peace-makers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.—

[Matt. v, 3–10.

II. THE LORD'S PRAYER.

OUR Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

III. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

I. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

III. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

IV. Remember the Sabbath-day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath-day, and hallowed it.

V. Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

VI. Thou shalt not kill.

VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

VIII. Thou shalt not steal.

IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

IV. THE APOSTLES' CREED

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church;* the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

V. BAPTISMAL COVENANT.

I RENOUNCE the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the sinful desires of the flesh, so that I will not follow nor be led by them.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

Having been baptized in this faith, I will obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of my life, God being my helper.

* By the holy catholic Church is meant the Church of God in general.

EXAMPLES OF PRAYER FOR THE YOUNG.

MORNING PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY GOD, my heavenly Father, I thank thee that thou hast taken care of me the past night, and that I am alive and well this morning. Save me, O God, from evil all this day; and may I love and serve thee always. Bestow on me, I pray thee, every good thing which I need for my body and soul: assist me by thy Holy Spirit to do thy will: make me always afraid to offend thee, and let me live in thy fear and die in thy favor, and at last be saved in heaven, for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

EVENING PRAYER.

O LORD GOD, who knowest all things, thou seest me by night as well as by day. I pray thee, for Christ's sake, forgive me whatever I have done amiss this day, and keep me safe all night. Bless, I beseech thee, all my friends;* do good to them at all times and in all places, and help me always to serve them in love. And when I have done thy will here, by thy grace assisting me, may I be fully prepared for death and the world to come, through Christ my blessed Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

MORNING PRAYER.

O LORD, I give thee thanks, that thou hast kept me during the night, and brought me to see another morning. Help me to pass this day in thy fear, and to remember that thine eye is always upon me; that thou hearest all I say, seest all I do, and knowest all that is in my thoughts. I confess before thee, O God, that I am a sinful creature. I have often been foolish and disobedient, and I deserve to be punished for my sins. But thou, O Lord, art merciful; thou hast promised pardon to those who repent and believe in Jesus Christ.

* Here mention father and mother, and others.

Be merciful to me, I pray thee, and pardon my transgressions. Give me true and deep repentance for my sins, and cause me to hate every evil way. Create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me. Help me to believe, with my whole heart, in Jesus Christ, and to commit my soul to thy mercy through him. O righteous Father, grant me thy Holy Spirit to dwell within me. May he instruct, sanctify, and preserve me to the kingdom of Jesus! Be thou gracious to all my friends and enemies, and have mercy on all those who are dead in sin, and save them with me and with all for whom I should pray, for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

EVENING PRAYER.

O God, I bow down before thee, and would lift up my soul in thanksgiving for all the favors of another day. I implore thy tender mercies in the forgiveness of all my sins of thought, word, or deed, since the morning. Pardon me, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who died upon the cross for sinners, and adopt me into thy family as one of thy children. May thy Spirit be poured down upon me! May he shed thy love abroad in my heart, and fill my mind with all good thoughts! May he teach me to love thy word, thy people, and thy house! May he help me to honor my parents, my minister, and my teachers, and to profit from their instructions! May he make me wise unto salvation, and prepare me for eternity! If I die young, may I be found ready, being washed from my sins in Jesus' blood! I ask the same mercies for all my friends. Watch over us during this night. Preserve and bless us, and let no evil come near our dwelling. May we be refreshed by rest, and awake in the morning to thy service! Grant likewise, O blessed Lord, that when days and nights with us have ended, we may sleep in Jesus, and awake in the morning of the resurrection, to join the redeemed of the Lord, and spend an eternal day in thy presence, service, and praise, for his sake! *Amen.*

MORNING PRAYER FOR THE LORD'S DAY,

To be added to the usual Morning Prayer.

SUFFER me not, O Lord, to waste this thy day in sin and folly; but let me worship thee with much delight. May I love thy word and thy house. Teach me to know more of thee, and to serve thee better than I have ever done before. To this end may I love my Sabbath school, and diligently improve all my opportunities to become wise unto salvation. Enable me, O Lord, to seek thee while thou mayest be found, and to call upon thee while thou art near. Thus, my Father in heaven, may I be fitted, through the merits and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, to reign with thee in thy blessed kingdom, and to thy great name shall be the glory, world without end. *Amen.*

EVENING PRAYER FOR THE LORD'S DAY,

To be added to the usual Evening Prayer.

O MOST gracious God, let me never forget the many good things that I have heard this day; but let them abide in my heart so that I may amend my life, and be able to give a good account of all my privileges at the judgment of the great day. May I have a heart to pity the many heathen that have no Sabbath, and a disposition to labor and pray that the gospel may be preached to all the world. Finally, when time shall end, may I be admitted to the Sabbath of rest in heaven, and give glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost forever. *Amen.*

A SHORT PRAYER ON RETIRING TO REST.

Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep;
And if I die before I wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take.

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